

WHAT DOES HIGH QUALITY CHILD CARE LOOK LIKE?

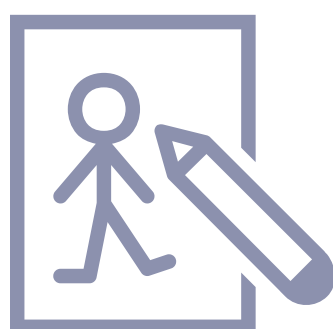
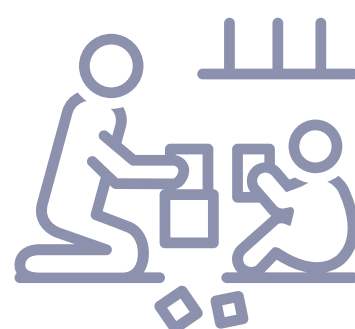


ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY

- Space is safe and free from possible hazards
- Space is clean, well lit, roomy and comfortable
- Emergency plans exist and exit drills take place
- First Aid kits are available
- First Aid trained staff are present at all times
- Children who become ill are cared for and isolated from the other children
- Medications are stored and given out appropriately

EDUCATOR QUALITIES

- Warm, caring, patient and creative
- Talks to, laughs with and listens to children
- Reads, plays, sings and enjoys interacting with children
- Has training and experience working with children
- Sensitive to children's feelings and needs, knows how to comfort children
- Respects yours and your child's cultural background
- Interactive and welcoming to families



PROGRAM ROUTINES

- Daily plans are in place for active and quiet play
- Meals and nap times are consistent
- Limits set for children are age appropriate

FAMILY INTERACTION

- Families are asked to offer ideas and help with program planning
- Classroom teachers/educators talk regularly with families about their child
- Families receive notes or are informed about special events or activities
- Programs are set up to meet the needs of children and families
- Families are welcome and feel at ease
- Families are allowed to visit any time
- Program handbooks are available to families



QUESTIONS TO ASK

What type of licensure or credential does the program have?

Is the program quality rated?

How is discipline handled in the program?

How are background checks completed and updated?

What is the program's use of television or tablets?

Do the director and lead teacher have college-level training in the field of child development?

How long have most of the staff been employed at the program?



INFLUENCING EARLY CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

SELECTING QUALITY CHILD CARE

1

Begin your search for child care by reaching out to EC LEARN at info@eclearn.org. Our early childhood specialists will work with you to identify your specific child care needs or do a customized search to meet your specific situation.

2

Screen by talking with possible programs over the phone. Ask about the program's background and philosophy of early childhood education. Ask for and check references and program licensing. Schedule a time to meet with programs that seem like a good fit.

3

Meet and greet by watching the program educators interact with your child. Talk about ideas on child rearing and the educator's experience in caring for children. Ask questions regarding daily routines, programming and family involvement.

4

Seek out programs that has or is working towards a national accreditation or state quality rating. These programs go above the required state standards by meeting higher expectations.

5

Decide on the best program for your child, you and your family.

EC LEARN CAN HELP!

Reach out to EC LEARN for enhanced assistance in finding and evaluating child care options to meet the needs of your child and family. Find out more at eclearn.org